

CURRICULUM VITAE

World Youth Orchestra

The World Youth Orchestra was born on September 15th, 2001, a remarkable year for creating a brand-new music project. It was a year that changed the history of the last millennium.

That's why the World Youth Orchestra isn't just about forming a new youth orchestra; it's also about addressing the challenges of a complex and ever-changing world. Just four days after the tragic events in New York and Washington, 75 young musicians from every corner of the globe miraculously gathered in Rome to reimagine the art of making music.

This group was made up of young musicians from colleges, universities and conservatories who believed in this new project; a project that collected great confidence around three core elements: the testimony of peace and brotherhood, cultural diplomacy ideals through the music language, and the human, artistic and professional development of the young musicians.

These young musicians came from colleges, universities, and conservatories, united by their belief in a new project. It was a project based on two core ideas: promoting peace and brotherhood through the universal language of music and nurturing the artistic and personal growth of these young talents.

Thanks to their presence, to their human and artistic background, and to the participatory work of the artistic direction and of all the collaborators, the World Youth Orchestra represents how art, particularly music, in the third millennium, is not only a cultural necessity of festival-goers or musical seasons, but above all, is a powerful instrument for conveying values and ideas, with the capacity to trigger significant initiatives not only within the realm of the arts but also in the social and political domains.

To realize its core objectives in its early years, the World Youth Orchestra embarked on a bold Mediterranean project, supported by the European Union and the Italian Foreign Ministry. The goal was to make a meaningful impact in a region afflicted by war, religious conflicts, and social struggles. During intense times, such as the Israeli intifada in 2003 and 2004, the orchestra crossed borders on foot, passing through the most challenging checkpoints, from the King Hussein Bridge to Abdala Bridge. In 2006, they visited Tunisia, Algeria, and in 2007, they made history as the only Western project in Algiers during the Year of Arab Culture. Their message of brotherhood resounded in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Tel Aviv, the Neve-Shalom-Wahat al-Salam kibbutz, Amman, and the Kasbah of Algiers.

The young musicians, representing all five continents, experienced the realities of war, hatred, poverty, and profound social challenges. But they also discovered beauty, a shared sense of

humanity, and genuine brotherhood. They cried, they smiled, and they collected life-changing experiences that fueled their personal and artistic growth. They became witnesses to an extraordinary artistic and social journey, a chapter in history.

This young orchestra isn't solely focused on its musical and artistic growth. It doesn't isolate itself but seeks to connect with other young people, individuals, and students in the regions it visits. In Italy, the Middle East, the Maghreb, and Europe, they initiate local projects, running musical workshops, exchanges, and interventions in schools, even outside the artistic realm. Their mission is to nurture culture from the ground up – a humble endeavor, seemingly distant from the grand musical stages but one that feeds the young musicians of the World Youth Orchestra and the communities they touch.

The World Youth Orchestra has achieved remarkable artistic success: they have performed at the Taormina Arte Festival, Rome's Piazza del Campidoglio, and toured many European countries such as Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, England, Ireland, Malta, and Slovenia. They have ventured to Turkey for the Cultural Bridge project, supported by the European Union and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and played at the Berlin Concert Hall. They performed for the National Academy of Santa Cecilia in Rome, toured the USA, played for the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and launched the impactful *Sounds of Brotherhood* project in various Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries, including Lebanon, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Morocco in 2019. Subsequently, they partnered with *National Geographic*, and introduced the pedagogical project Wyo4children for underprivileged minors in Lebanon, Morocco, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They achieved great success at the Expo Dubai 2020 with the *Le due lune* project and toured Malta and Spain, supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The World Youth Orchestra has earned recognition for its political and institutional achievements. UNICEF Italy designated it as a Goodwill Ambassador. The President of the Italian Republic, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, awarded it the Medal and Silver Plaque for cultural and social merits, while the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, conferred the Presidential Medal for the Sounds for the Iran project. The orchestra received an invitation to the UN in New York from the Italian Representation to the United Nations, along with support from prominent figures such as the Secretary Emeritus of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and other top European and Italian leaders.

The successes of individual young musicians representing the World Youth Orchestra are also growing. Many of them have won prestigious roles at very important orchestras such as the Berliner Philharmoniker, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel

Philharmonic Orchestra, Accademia di S. Cecilia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and Das Luzerner Sinfonieorchester.

Young musicians from the World Youth Orchestra have achieved remarkable individual success, landing prestigious roles in renowned orchestras like the Berliner Philharmoniker, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Accademia di Santa Cecilia Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Luzerner Sinfonieorchester.

But beyond these professional accomplishments, the most valuable results lie in the countless friendships, the bonds of brotherhood, and shared enthusiasm, joy, warmth, and dedication. These outcomes keep the World Youth Orchestra vibrant every day. That's why it continues to follow the path it embarked upon, dedicated to artistic exploration, professional growth, and most importantly, the pursuit of brotherhood through art – the orchestra's ultimate and most ambitious mission.